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UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

Belgium on behalf of the European Union*: draft resolution

Assistance to Palestine refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/69 of 14 December 1992 and all its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948,

Taking note of the report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, covering the period from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993, 1/ and, in particular, the hope expressed by the Commissioner-General "that this report covers an era which is gone forever",

Welcoming the signature by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including its Annexes, and its Agreed Minutes, of 13 September 1993, 2/

1. Notes with regret that repatriation or compensation of the refugees, as provided for in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), has

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* Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

1/ A/48/13 and Add.1.

2/ A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

not yet been effected and that, therefore, the situation of the refugees continues to be a matter of concern;

2. Expresses its thanks to the Commissioner-General and to all the staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, recognizing that the Agency is doing all it can within the limits of available resources, and also expresses its thanks to the specialized agencies and to private organizations for their valuable work in assisting the refugees;

3. Requests that the headquarters of the Agency should be transferred as soon as practicable to its area of operations;

4. Notes with regret that the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine has been unable to find a means of achieving progress in the implementation of paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III), 3/ and requests the Commission to exert continued efforts towards the implementation of that paragraph and to report to the Assembly as appropriate, but no later than 1 September 1994;

5. Notes that the new context created by the Israeli-Palestinian accord of 13 September 1993 will have major consequences for the activities of the Agency, which is henceforth called upon, within the framework of strengthened cooperation with the other specialized agencies and the World Bank, to make a decisive contribution towards giving a fresh impetus to the economic and social stability of the occupied territories, and notes also that the functioning of the Agency remains essential throughout its area of operations;

6. Welcomes the results of the International Donors Conference to Support Middle East Peace, held on 1 October 1993, concerning urgent financial and economic assistance in support of the Israeli-Palestinian accord, and urges all Member States to extend aid and assistance with a view to the economic development of the occupied territories;

7. Directs attention to the continuing seriousness of the financial position of the Agency, as outlined in the report of the Commissioner-General;

8. Notes with profound concern that despite the commendable and successful efforts of the Commissioner-General to collect additional contributions this increased level of income to the Agency is still insufficient to cover essential budget requirements in the present year and that, at the currently foreseen levels of contributions, deficits will recur each year;

9. Calls upon all Governments, as a matter of urgency, to make the most generous efforts possible to meet the anticipated needs of the Agency, and therefore urges non-contributing Governments to contribute regularly and contributing Governments to consider increasing their regular contributions.

3/ See A/48/474, annex.